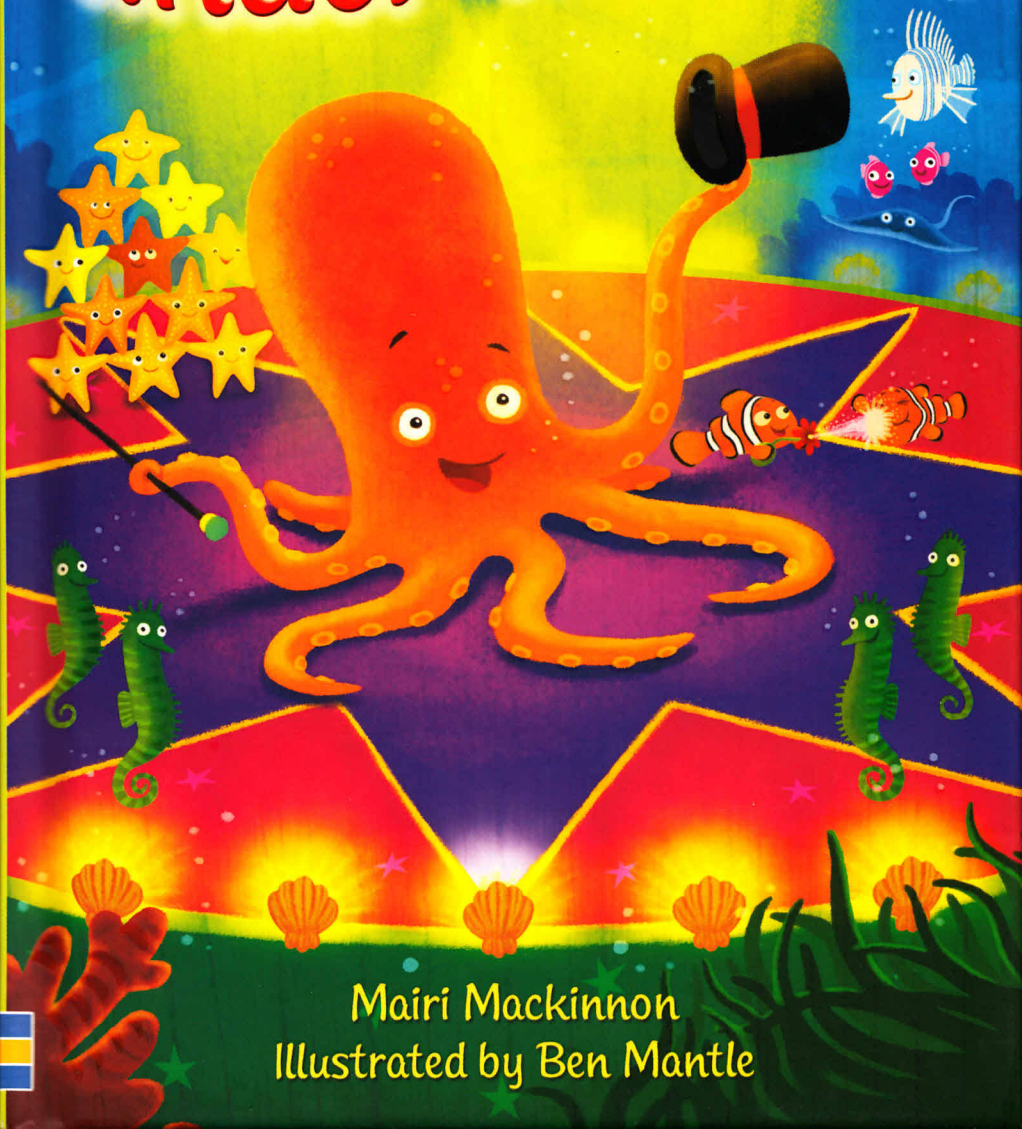


USBORNE VERY FIRST READING: BOOK 12



# The Circus under the Sea



Mairi Mackinnon  
Illustrated by Ben Mantle



Usborne **Very First Reading** has been developed in consultation with literacy specialists Alison Kelly and Anne Washtell of Roehampton University, London.

Each book contains:

- a **story** that children will love to read
- fun **puzzles** to reinforce new skills
- **guidance notes** on reading with your child.

Further help and support for parents and teachers can be found on the Very First Reading website,  
[www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)



# The Circus under the Sea

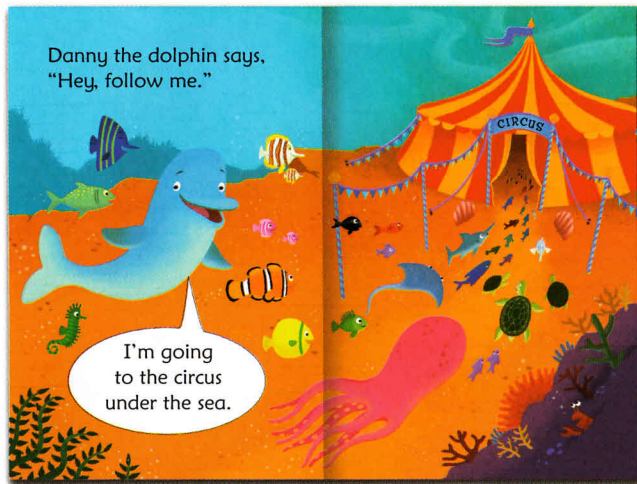


Written by Mairi Mackinnon

Illustrated by Ben Mantle

## How this book works

The story of *The Circus under the Sea* has been written for your child to read with your help. Encourage your child to read as much as they can, helping to sound out the words if they get stuck.



There are puzzles after the story, and for these you will need to read the instructions to your child.

You can find out more about helping your child with this book, and with reading in general, on pages 30-31.

# The Circus under the Sea

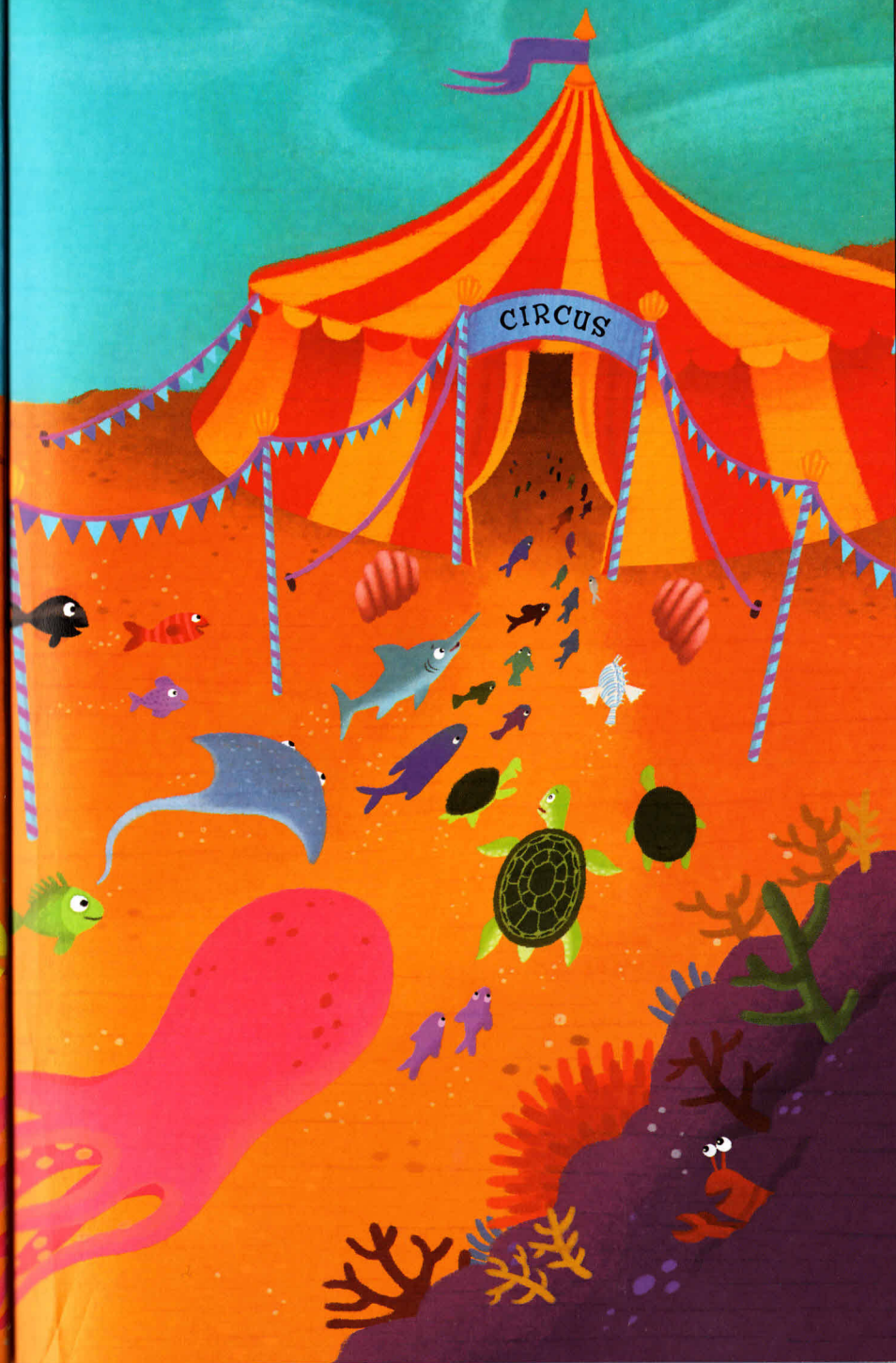


Turn the page to start the story.

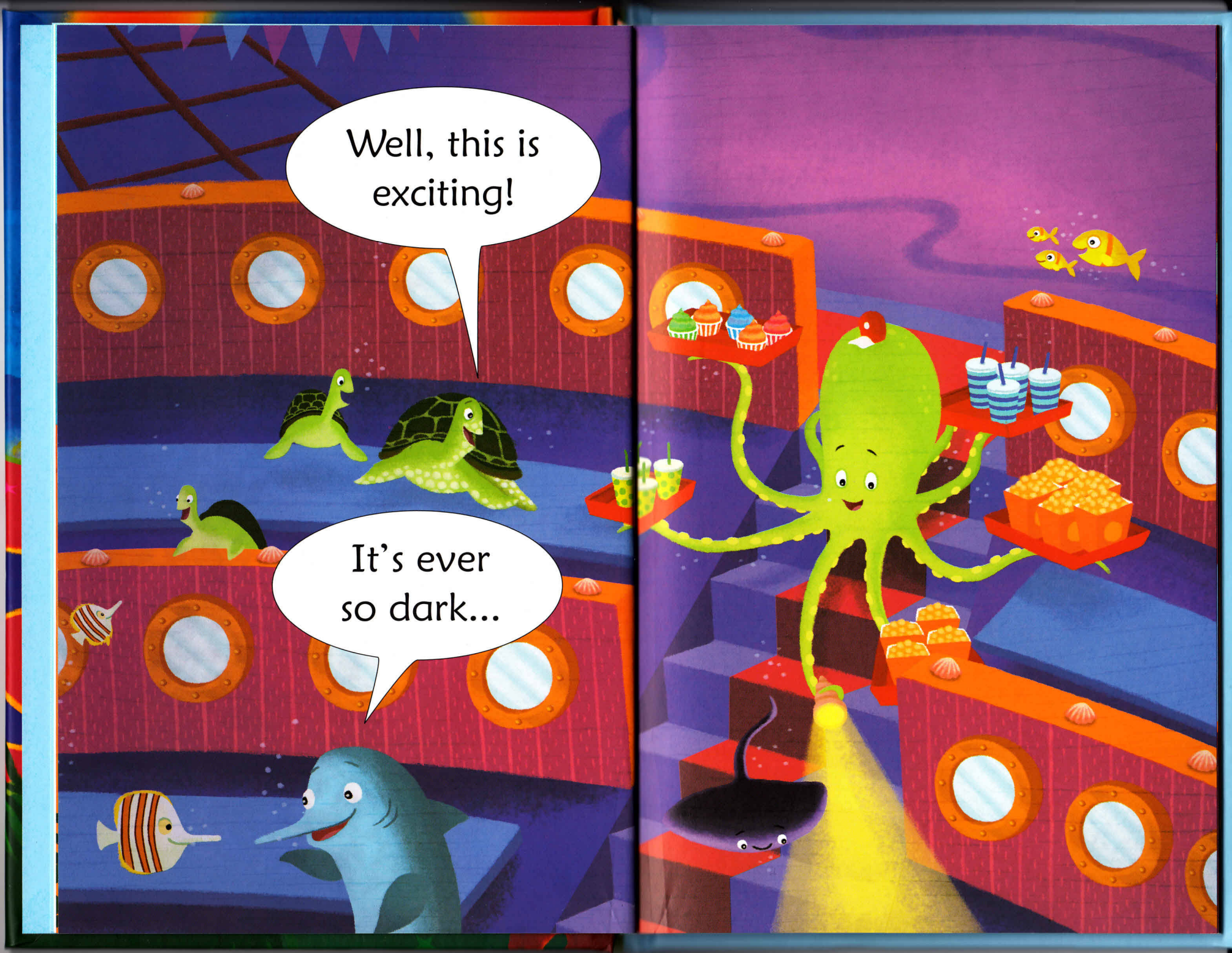


Danny the dolphin says,  
“Hey, follow me.”

I’m going  
to the circus  
under the sea.







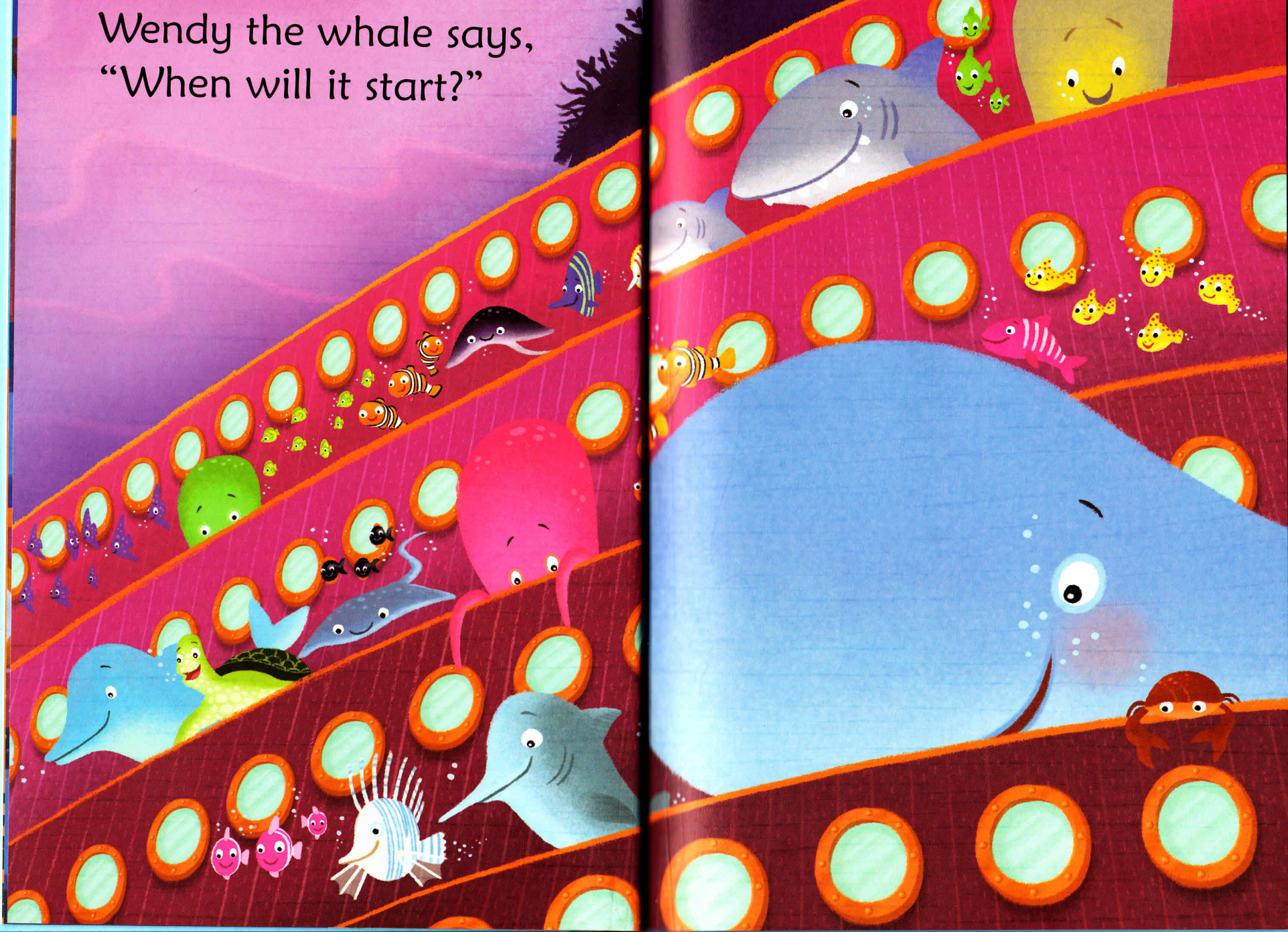
Well, this is  
exciting!

It's ever  
so dark...





Wendy the whale says,  
“When will it start?”





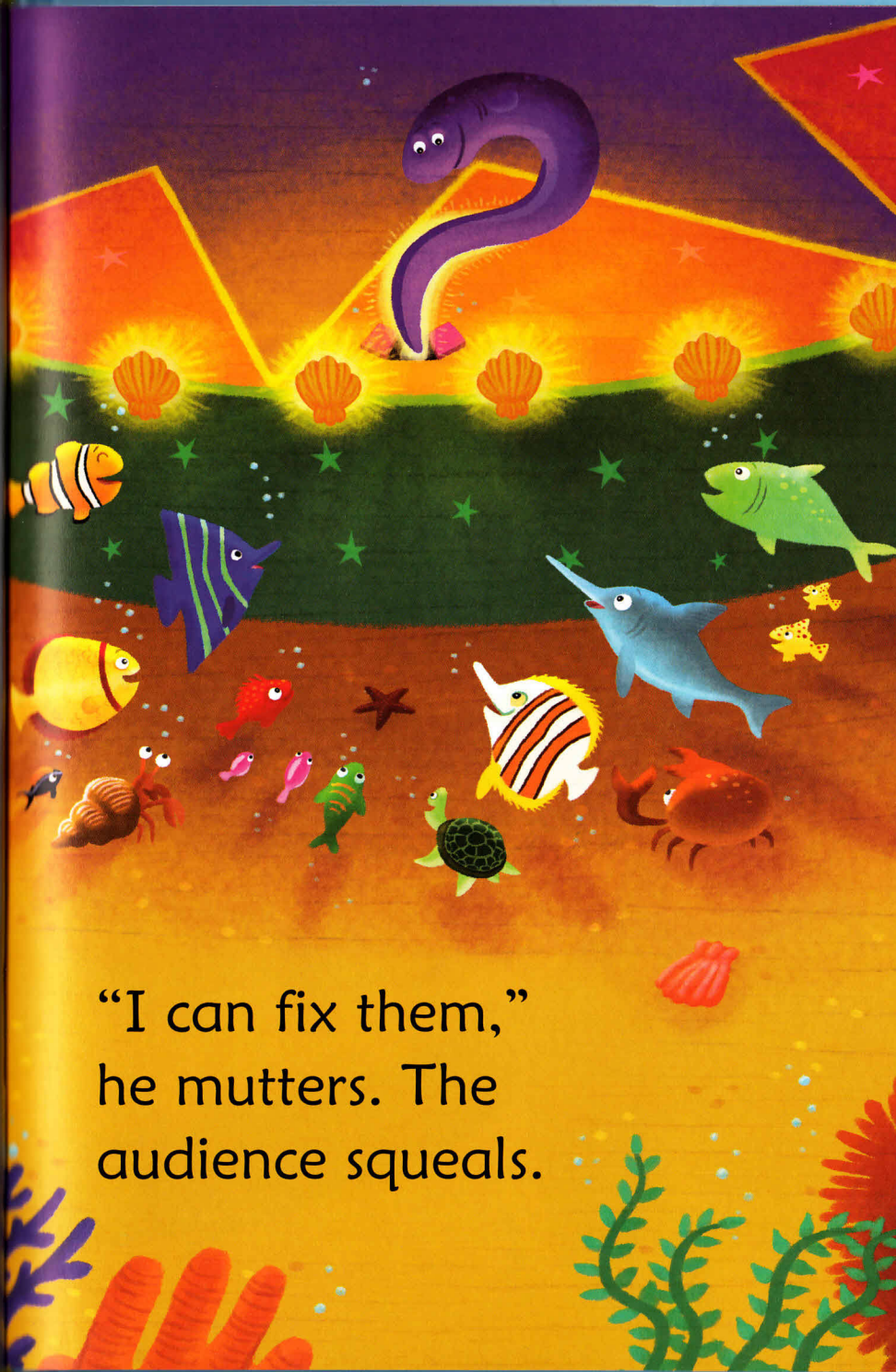
Is there a problem?  
We hear a low moan.



“The stage lights are  
broken. Quick, lend me  
your phone.”



Thank goodness! Here's  
Eddy, the electric eel.



"I can fix them,"  
he mutters. The  
audience squeals.



It's showtime! The  
seahorses race around  
the ring.





The clownfish play tricks,



and the mermaids sing.





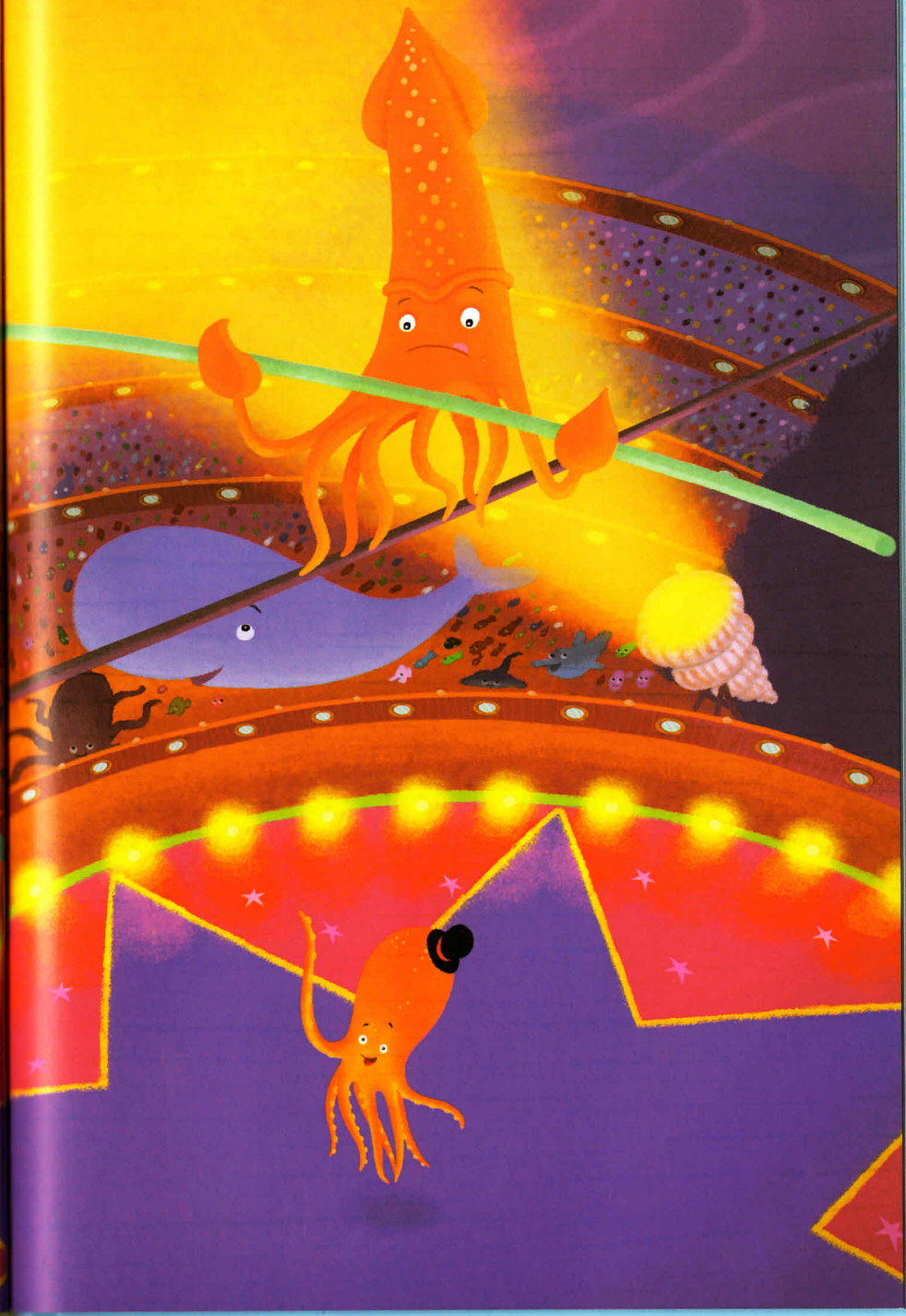
Magical!



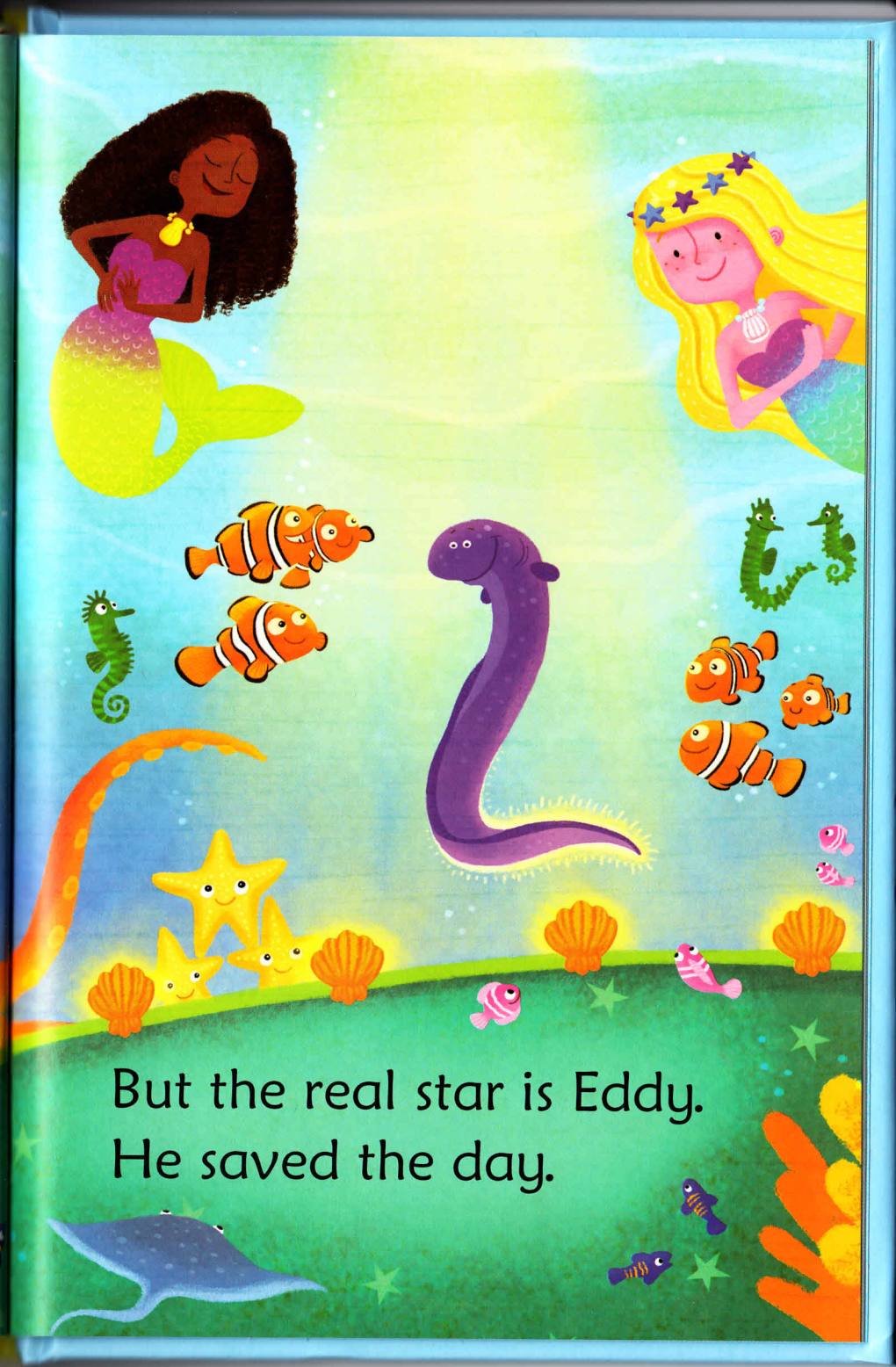
He's a genius!



The squid on the high  
wire balance and sway.







But the real star is Eddy.  
He saved the day.

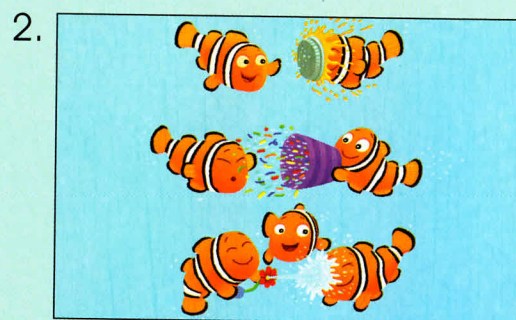


## Puzzle 1

Can you finish the sentences? Choose from the endings on the page opposite. (You can look back at the story if you need help.)



The seahorses...



The clownfish...



The mermaids...



Eddy...

A

sing.

B

play tricks.

C

saved the day.

D

race around the ring.



## Puzzle 2

Choose the right word to complete each phrase.



“Hey,..... me.”

help

copy

follow



Is there a ..... ?

practice

problem

prawn



“I can fix them,” he ..... .

butters

flutters

mutters



“..... !”

Magical

Medical

Musical



## Puzzle 3

Find the word in each group that begins with a different sound from the others.

1. eel each every
2. circus cactus seahorse
3. fern pain phone
4. genius jungles goodness
5. howl wheel whale

## Answers to puzzles

### Puzzle 1

1. D – race around the ring.
2. B – play tricks.
3. A – sing.
4. C – saved the day.

### Puzzle 2

1. “Hey, follow me.”
2. Is there a problem?
3. “I can fix them,” he mutters.
4. “Magical!”

### Puzzle 3

1. every
2. cactus
3. pain
4. goodness
5. howl



## Guidance notes

Usborne Very First Reading is a series of books, specially developed for children who are learning to read. **The Circus under the Sea** is the twelfth book in the series, and by this stage your child should be able to read the story alone, with occasional help from you.

The story of **The Circus under the Sea** introduces the following spelling patterns:

|               |                |                          |                            |   |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| wh            | ph             | ce                       | ge                         | y   |
| as in<br>when | as in<br>phone | ci                       | gi                         | at the<br>end of<br>a word,<br>as in<br>Danny |
|               |                | as in<br>race,<br>circus | as in<br>stage,<br>magical |   |

Later books in the series focus on letters that can be pronounced in different ways, while reinforcing the spelling patterns your child already knows.

You'll find lots more information about the structure of the series, advice on helping your child with reading, extra practice activities and games on the Very First Reading website,\* [www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)

\*US readers go to [www.veryfirstreading.com](http://www.veryfirstreading.com)

## Some questions and answers

- **Why do I need to read with my child?**

Sharing stories makes reading an enjoyable and fun activity for children. It also helps them to develop confidence and stamina. Even if you are not taking an active part in reading, your listening and support are very important.

- **When is a good time to read?**

Choose a time when you are both relaxed, but not too tired, and there are no distractions. Only read for as long as your child wants to – you can always try again another day.

- **What if my child gets stuck?**

Don't simply read the problem word yourself, but prompt your child and try to find the right answer together. Similarly, if your child makes a mistake, go back and look at the word together. Don't forget to give plenty of praise and encouragement.

- **We've finished, now what do we do?**



It's a good idea to read the story several times to give your child more practice and more confidence. Then, when your child is ready, you can go on to the next book in the series, **The Monster Diner**.



Edited by Jenny Tyler and Lesley Sims  
Designed by Russell Punter



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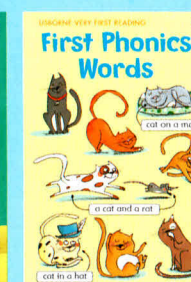
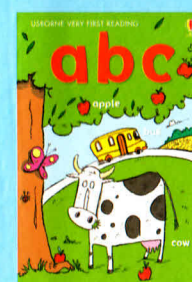
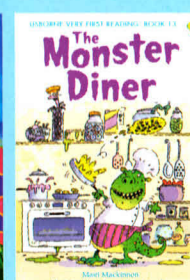
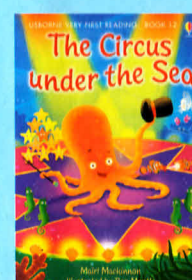
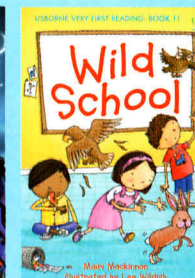
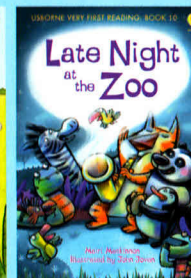
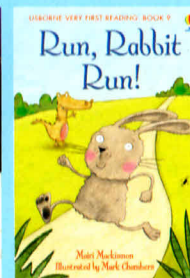
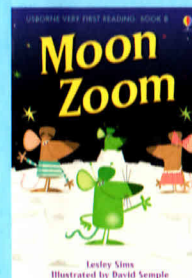
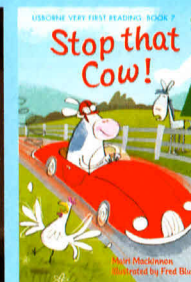
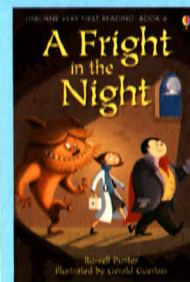
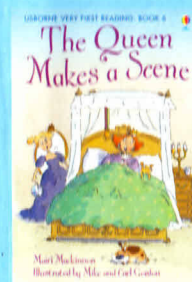
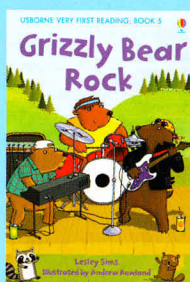
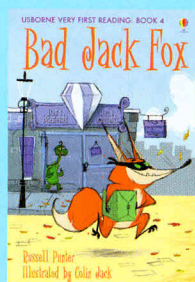
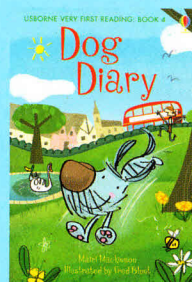
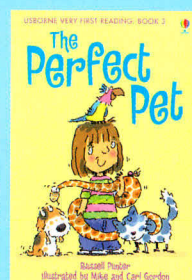
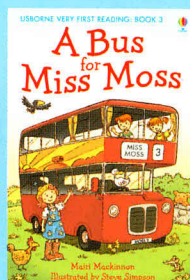
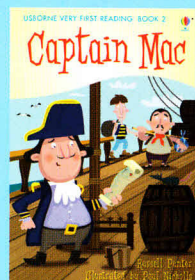
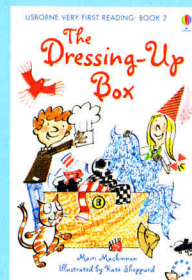
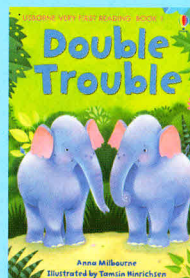
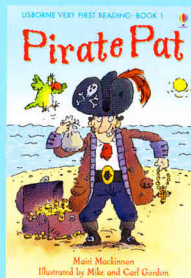
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## USBORNE VERY FIRST READING

There are over thirty titles in the Usborne Very First Reading series, which has been specially developed to help children learn to read. Here are some of them.

To find out more about the structure of the series, go to [www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)







# The Circus under the Sea

**The Circus under the Sea** is part of the **Usborne Very First Reading** series which has been specially developed to help children learn to read. Each book in the series introduces new letters or reading patterns, and reinforces material from previous books.

Designed for an adult and child to read together, the series combines lively rhyming stories with inspiring illustrations in order to build the skills and confidence that will encourage a lifelong enjoyment of reading.



Find out about all the titles available at  
[www.usborne.com](http://www.usborne.com)

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